(c) to (e) Construction of new International Terminal Building has been undertaken at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Airport, Ahmedabad to cater to 1000 passengers at a time at an estimated cost of Rs. 291 crore. The expected date of completion is end of February, 2009.

Insurance for Income Tax Payer

†*266. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to insure every income-tax payer for an amount of ten lakh rupees;

(b) if so, the date from which it would be introduced; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration for providing insurance cover to the Income-tax payers by the Central Government.

Participation of Private Sector in Training of Pilots

*269. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has made an assessment of prospective need for commercial pilots in civil aviation sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether the country has world class training institutes to meet the prospective requirement of trained commercial pilots;

(c) the current strength of the existing civil aviation academies/campuses in the country;

(d) whether Government propose to enhance the existing strength of aviation academies/ campuses; and

(e) what will be the cost of such expansion and whether Government is open to participation by the private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. With the present growth of aviation industry it has been estimated that in the next five years 5000 additional pilots would be required for scheduled operations and 1000 pilots for non scheduled and private operations.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is a premier flying training institute, namely, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) at Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh. It has also been decided to set up a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra.

(c) There are 43 flying training institutes in the country approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) providing training for various licences like Private Pilot Licence, Commercial Pilot Licence etc. The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) is an autonomous society under the Central Government. Of the remaining 42 institutes, 27 are run by various State Governments and the balance 15 by private entrepreneurs. Out of the 43 approved flying clubs, 16 are non-operational. At present approximately 850 cadets are undergoing flying training for various courses at these institutions.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken various steps to strengthen the flying clubs. These include upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India (ACI).

(e) For IGRUA, which is under the administrative control of this Ministry, the Government has approved two schemes for upgradation *viz.* development of civil and electrical infrastructure and acquisition of trainer aircrafts costing Rs. 21.82 crore and Rs. 43.10 crore respectively. The Government has also proposed to incur an expenditure of Rs. 108.07 crore for development of Birsi aerodrome for setting up of flying training institute at Gondia. An amount of Rs. 12.03 crore for purchase of trainer aircrafts to be allocated by ACI to various flying clubs has also been approved.

Private operators are already in the field of training of pilots. It has been decided to develop the flying training institute at Gondia as a Joint Venture Company under the aegis of Airports Authority of India with a private flying training organisation of international repute as Joint Venture Partner. It has also been decided to develop IGRUA as a world class flying training institute through management contract arrangement with flying training organisation of international repute.

Survey on Functioning of Banks in Villages

†*270. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards survey by Invest India Market Solutions Dataworks regarding functioning of banks in villages where only 38 per cent of labourers have bank accounts;

(b) whether out of 22.7 crore village labourers only 8.61 crore have accounts in banks;

(c) the reasons for banks being situated far off from villages and whether the main reason for this is indifference of Bank Officers; and

(d) what efforts are being made by Government for increasing bank transactions in villages?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Invest India Market Solutions Dataworks have not submitted any report to the Government on functioning of banks in villages.

(b) to (d) Scheduled commercial banks as on March 2006 had a total of 48.51 crore accounts, of which 13.96 crore were rural accounts. The specific initiatives taken by the Government for increasing bank transactions in villages include; introduction of 'zero balance' or 'no frills accounts; pilot projects for utilizing smart cards/mobile technology to increase banks' outreach; biometric methods for uniquely identifying customers; pilot project to identify at least one district in each State/Union Territory for achieving 100 per cent financial inclusion; survey for assessing customer satisfaction in rural areas; permission given to banks to utilise the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.